

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended) A RANTES-derived peptides peptide containing 10 to 19 amino acids, of formula [[<BR>]] (I) :

[[<BR>]] Ac-C-x1-PYI-x2-x3-Y-NH2 (I) (SEQ ID NO: 1)

[[<BR>]]

wherein Ac-represents an acetyl residue, -NH2 a carboxamido terminus, x1 and x3, which can be the same or different, are selected from the group consisting of the hydrophobic residues Phe, Tyr, 1Nal (L-beta-1- naphthyl-alanine), 2Nal (L-beta-2-naphthyl-alanine), and Cha (L-beta-cyclohexyl- alanine), and

wherein x2 is a spacer containing 2 to 12 amino acidic residues.

2. (currently amended) Peptides The peptide as claimed in claim 1, wherein x2 is selected from 1) the sequence 16-27 of RANTES, 2) the sequence 16-27 of RANTES in which 1 to 3 amino acidic residues are replaced with different natural or non natural L or D amino acids, 3) the sequence 16-27 of RANTES in which a group of at least two, preferably at least three and

no more than nine residues, either consecutive or non consecutive, is removed.

3. (currently amended) ~~Peptides~~ The peptide as claimed in claim 1, in which x2 is selected from ARPLPR- X-HIKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 2), ARPLPR-X-HIKEY1Nal (SEQ ID NO: 3), ARPLPR-X-HIKEY2Nal (SEQ ID NO: 4), ARPLPR-X- HIKEYCha (SEQ ID NO: 5), ARPLPR-X-HIF (SEQ ID NO: 6), ARPLPR-X-HYF (SEQ ID NO: 7), ARPLPR-X-EYF (SEQ ID NO: 8), ARPLPRKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 9), ARPLPIKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 10), ARP-X-HIKEYF (SEQ ID NO: 11), wherein X is Ala or Pro.

4. (currently amended) ~~Dimers of the peptides (I) in which A dimer comprising the peptide (I) according to claim 1, wherein two of said peptides are linked by a disulfide bond between Cys residues at position 1.~~

5. (currently amended) ~~Pharmaceutical compositions containing A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient a peptide (I) or a dimer thereof as claimed in the above claims according to claim 1.~~

6. (currently amended) ~~Pharmaceutical compositions as claimed in claim 5, for use in A method for the treatment of diseases in which the RANTES receptor is involved, comprising administering an effective amount of peptide according to claim 1.~~

7. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for the preparation of a medicament useful for the treatment of viral infections, particularly HIV infections, and of inflammatory, allergic, degenerative, neoplastic or metastatic diseases, which comprises using administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the peptides or dimers thereof peptide as claimed in claim 1.

8. (new) The method according to claim 7, wherein the subject has an HIV infection.

9. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising as active ingredient a dimer according to claim 4.

10. (new) A method for the treatment of diseases in which the RANTES receptor is involved, comprising administering an effective amount of dimer according to claim 4.

11. (new) A method for the treatment of viral infections, and of inflammatory, allergic, degenerative, neoplastic or metastatic diseases, which comprises administering to a subject in need thereof an effective amount of the dimer as claimed in claim 4.